

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 04717 102103Z

64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 OMB-01 OPR-02 SIL-01 LAB-06 AID-20

PC-04 NIC-01 SY-10 USSS-00 OS-03 OC-06 CCO-00 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /158 W

----- 054406

R 102019Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8558

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 4717

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EC

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN GOS/TEACHER CONFRONTATION

REF: GUAYAQUIL 921 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: BREAKTHROUGH HAS DEVELOPED IN MONTH-LONG CONFRONTATION BETWEEN GOE AND STRIKING TEACHERS' UNION (UNE.) PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ MADE SIGNIFICANT GESTURE OF APPEASEMENT BY MEETING WITH SELECTED UNE LEADERS AFTER-NOON SEPTEMBER 4 AND BY LIFTING SANCTIONS AGAINST TWO GUAYAQUIL PROFESSORS WHOSE EARLIER SUSPENSION BY EDUCATION MINISTER HAD PRECIPITATED IMBROGLIO IN FIRST PLACE. AS QUID PRO QUO, UNE HAS LIFTED ITS MONTH-LONG STRIKE AND APPARENTLY DROPPED ITS DEMANDS FOR RESIGNATION OF EDUCATION MINISTER. SITUATION IN GUAYAQUIL AND ELSEWHERE RETURNING TO NORMAL WITH ONLY A FEW REMNANT UNE ELEMENTS STILL PRESSING FOR EDUCATION MINISTER'S RESIGNATION AS CONDITION FOR ENDING STRIKE ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A SOMEWHAT UNEXPECTED MOVE, GOE PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA MET AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 4 WITH LEADERS OF STRIKING  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 04717 102103Z

ECUADOREAN TEACHERS' UNION (UNE) IN AN EFFORT TO BREAK

MONTH-LONG CONFRONTATION WHICH HAD RESULTED FROM SUSPENSION OF TWO GUAYAQUIL PROFESSORS BY EDUCATION MINISTRY. SUSPENSION HAD BEEN FOLLOWED BY UPSURGE OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT TEACHER-STUDENT ACTIVITY, PARTICULARLY IN GUAYAQUIL, IN FORM OF CLASSROOM BOYCOTT AND STREET DEMONSTRATIONS AND SOME PHYSICAL VIOLENCE RESULTING IN AT LEAST THREE DEATHS.

3. IN HANDLING WHAT HAS IN EFFECT BEEN THE FIRST, THOUGH ADMITTEDLY RELATIVELY MINOR, CHALLENGE TO ITS AUTHORITY SINCE ASSUMING POWER IN FEBRUARY 1972, GOE PROCEEDED WITH FIRMNESS. RATHER THAN WAITING FOR STRIKE TO RUN ITS COURSE AND EVENTUALLY FIZZLE, WHICH IT MIGHT NOT HAVE DONE, MILITARY USED COERCIVE TACTICS TO DISRUPT STRIKE IN GUAYAQUIL AND PRINCIPAL UNE LEADERS WERE ROUNDED UP AND TEMPORARILY EXILED TO THE ORIENTE. IT ALSO CONSISTENTLY REJECTED THE UNE DEMAND THAT THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION BE DISMISSED.

4. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, STAGE WAS SET FOR LATEST DEVELOPMENTS BY UNE AGREEMENT TO SUSPEND STRIKE PRIOR TO MEETING WITH PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ. OUTCOME OF SESSION WAS SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS BY RODRIGUEZ AGAINST THE TWO GUAYAQUIL PROFESSORS, COMMITMENT TO RELEASE PERSONS DETAINED AS A RESULT OF STRIKE, AND PROMISE TO NAME A COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE COMPLAINTS BY THE TWO GUAYAQUIL PROFESSORS AGAINST THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION WHICH LED TO THE SUSPENSION IN THE FIRST PLACE. GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY ALSO PROMISED TO EXAMINE QUESTION OF RE-INSTATING NINE SUSPENDED PROFESSORS IN ESMERALDAS. RODRIGUEZ IS NOT KNOWN TO HAVE MADE ANY COMMITMENT CONCERNING EDUCATION MINISTER. ALTHOUGH RATHER THAN CATEGORICALLY REJECTING THE POSSIBILITY OF RESIGNATION, HE IS QUOTED BY THE PRESS AS STATING SIMPLY THAT THIS WAS A PRIVATE MATTER BETWEEN HIM AND THE MINISTER. UNE LEADERS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE MINISTER'S RESIGNATION IS FOR THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF TO DECIDE, WHICH STATEMENTS IN AND OF THEMSELVES DO NOT, OF COURSE, PRECLUDE BEHIND-THE-SCENES DEAL WHEREBY MINISTER WOULD RESIGN AFTER DECENT INTERVAL. SPECULATION ALONG THESE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 QUITO 04717 102103Z

LINES IS CERTAIN TO BE FED BY THE FACT THAT EDUCATION MINISTER HIMSELF WAS EXCLUDED FROM PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH UNE LEADERS.

5. SINCE ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOVERNMENT/TEACHER SETTLEMENT, SITUATION IN GUAYAQUIL, FOCAL POINT OF DISTURBANCES, HAS CALMED AND SITUATION RETURNING TO NORMAL WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A COUPLE OF SCHOOLS WHICH REMAIN CLOSED

BECAUSE OF A LINGERING FEAR OF FURTHER STUDENT-PROVOKED INCIDENTS. THERE ARE ALSO PRESS REPORTS THAT A FEW MAVERICK UNE ELEMENTS ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY ARE CONTINUING TO STRIKE IN DEMAND OF THE EDUCATION MINISTER'S RESIGNATION.

6. COMMENT: FOREGOING DEVELOPMENTS DO NOT NECESSARILY CLOSE THE BOOKS ON THIS CHALLENGE TO RODRIGUEZ REGIME. PRESIDENT IS NOW COMMITTED TO A NUMBER OF STEPS WHICH COULD GIVE RISE TO NEW COMPLICATIONS, SUCH AS INVESTIGATION OF PROFESSORS' COMPLAINTS REFERRED TO ABOVE, AND THERE ARE ALREADY THOSE OUT-POLITICIANS WHO ARE SEIZING UPON PRESIDENT'S WILLINGNESS TO LIFT SANCTIONS AS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS, A PERCEPTION WHICH COULD ENCOURAGE THEM TO FOMENT FURTHER TROUBLES. BUT, WE BELIEVE THAT GOE/TEACHER CONFRONTATION HAS PROBABLY TURNED A CORNER, THAT BOTH SIDES MADE CONCESSIONS IN AN EFFORT TO BREAK THE IMPASSE AND THAT BY ITS ACTIONS THE GOVERNMENT HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT THERE IS NO GROUP OR COMBINATION OF POLITICAL GROUPINGS WHICH AT THE MOMENT IS CAPABLE OF SHAKING ITS FIRM POLITICAL GRIP OVER THE COUNTRY.

CHAPLIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, TEACHERS, POLITICAL STRIKES, STRIKE SETTLEMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973QUITO04717  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS CHAPLIN  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** QUITO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730945/aaaabhak.tel  
**Line Count:** 137  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** GUAYAQUIL 921 AND PREVIOUS  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <08 FEB 2002 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEVELOPMENTS IN GOS/TEACHER CONFRONTATION  
**TAGS:** PINT, EC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005